

16 MAR 1946

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

GENERAL

1. American warships to visit the Mediterranean--The Navy reports that the USS MISSOURI, bearing the body of Turkish Ambassador Ertegun, will leave New York on 21 March and, accompanied by the cruiser PROVIDENCE and the destroyer POWER, should be at Istanbul on 5-9 April. The Commander in Chief US Navy Forces Europe will be aboard the MISSOURI, and the Commander in Chief US Navy Forces Mediterranean, aboard the PROVIDENCE. Thereafter the MISSOURI and POWER are scheduled to visit Piræus, Naples, Algiers and Tangier during April. The PROVIDENCE is scheduled to visit Beirut on 26-30 April. [REDACTED]

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EUROPE-AFRICA

2. IRAN: Soviet troops reported using Iran merely as a "passageway" -- Embassy Tehran has received "indirect reports quoting two separate members of Qavam's delegation to Moscow" to the effect that the delegation was informed by the Soviets of impending troop movements in Iran and was told that the Iranians "need not be alarmed because this would have nothing to do with Iran," which would be "merely a passageway for troops." According to one of the members, the ultimate objective of these movements "was stated to be to break British power in this area." [REDACTED]
3. YUGOSLAVIA: Presence of Soviet troops denied--In connection with recent rumors regarding the presence of Soviet troops in Yugoslavia. Allied HQ in Italy has now reported the following: (a) [REDACTED] there are no Soviet divisions in Yugoslavia, (b) [REDACTED] aside from the Soviet Military Mission, there are no Soviet units in Macedonia, and (c) Allied HQ is "wholly in accordance" with the foregoing views and believes that most contradicting rumors have originated either (1) from opposition sources in the Balkans "who have eyes on the peace conference" or (2) from a deliberate war of nerves. [REDACTED]

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State Dept., OSD reviews completed

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25X1 4. AUSTRIA: Figl firm against Soviet land demands--Chancellor Figl--after being informed by General Clark that the cession of Austrian land to any foreign power was a matter for Allied Council decision--forbade local authorities to enter upon any land contracts on penalty of high treason. Soviet authorities, who had presented a new demand for 40,000 hectares of farm land, met with Figl and his Minister of Agriculture in a bitter three-hour session. The Soviet attitude was that, having freed Vienna and Austria, the USSR was trying to help Austria by feeding its own troops from the land. They scoffed at Figl's assertion that US troops were US-fed, [REDACTED]

25X1 5. GREAT BRITAIN: Official Polish attitude toward Anders' troops--A "responsible official" of the Polish Embassy in London has stated to the US Embassy that the Polish Government regards General Anders and his troops "not as Polish but as British soldiers," for whom the British Government is responsible until they have become civilians and have satisfied Polish authorities that they are Polish nationals. Unless they return to Poland, the Polish Government will assume no responsibility for their maintenance, compensation, or pensioning. Warsaw desires the return of younger men only, who are capable of productive labor and able to adjust themselves to the "new political and social order." [REDACTED]

25X1 6. FRANCE: French reaction to US draft of treaty with Germany--Ambassador Caffery reports that while the French are "not unfavorable" to the terms of the US draft of the German treaty, their "psychological reaction has been most unfortunate." The fact that the US should propose such a treaty at a time when the USSR is pressing to expand its position in Germany and elsewhere is regarded by the French as a further indication that the US is "anxious to pull out of Germany as soon as possible and abandon Europe to Soviet Russia." [REDACTED]

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FAR EAST

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7. N.E.I.: Satisfactory negotiations in prospect--Embassy The Hague reports that the initial meeting between Dr. Van Mook and Sjahrir was encouraging and that Indonesian counter-proposals are "moderate" and open up favorable prospects for negotiations.
- [REDACTED]

THE AMERICAS

8. ARGENTINA: Factors contributing to Democratic defeat--Charge Cabot reports a growing tendency in Democratic circles to blame their electoral defeat upon nationalistic reaction to the publication of the Blue Book. He notes that, while this explanation is a matter of opinion, the Democratic defeat can be definitely ascribed to the following political mistakes:
- (a) A complete lack of contact with the people and a consequent lack of a popular program and dynamic leadership in opposition to the material benefits offered by Peron; identification of the Democratic Union with sterile reaction.
 - (b) Radical arrogance toward other anti-Peronista parties, based on the false assumption that the Radicals alone constituted a popular majority.
 - (c) The consequent exclusion of the Conservatives (the Radicals' traditional rivals) from the Union. Peron's majorities in Entre Rios and Mendoza, and possibly in Santa Fe, are attributable to the support of resentful Conservatives.
 - (d) Inclusion of the Communists in the Union, antagonizing the more influential Catholic Church.

As a result of these political mistakes, the Democratic Union had solid support from neither the Right nor the Left. In addition, its failure to present a united front in congressional elections ensured the election of Peronista candidates, even in provinces like Corrientes, where there was a strong Democratic majority.

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